



Idaho



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2008 Final
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	465,400
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	777,000
Forest Legacy	1,618,000
Forest Stewardship	274,300
State Fire Assistance	546,430
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	1,335,379
Urban and Community Forestry	416,400
Volunteer Fire Assistance	71,400
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	119,500
Total	5,623,809

This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

Cooperative programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between the State of Idaho, the USDA Forest Service, and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Idaho's forest lands and rural economies. We emphasize timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies, and conservation practices. Our goal is to maintain and improve the health of Idaho's urban and rural forests and related economies.

- Increase cost effectiveness through the use of partnerships in delivery.
- Increase values through sustained productivity of forests.
- Integrate program efforts to maximize impact and address state and national issues.

Key Issues:

- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) management
- Forest health concerns: increased age and density; decreased federal lands diversity
- Rapid urbanization and subdivision development
- Threats to Idaho's forests from invasive species
- Increasing dependence on timber supply from private lands
- Disappearing timber markets
- Threats to Idaho's communities and forests from wildfire
- Biomass utilization
- Ecosystem restoration
- Protection and rehabilitation of water quality and riparian areas
- Climate change and its affect on Idaho's rural and community forests

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2008 Accomplishments	
Population	1,293,953	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance (Each)	7,360
Acres of Forest Land	21,821,000	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	15,317
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,219,477	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	13,445
Number of NIPF Landowners	58,842	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	59
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	966,689	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	42
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,303,565	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	27,035
Number of Rural Fire Departments	250	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions (Acres)	0
Number of Cities And Towns	205	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	69
Forest Based Employment	14,700	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	734,895
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	4	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance (Hours)	34,748
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	0		

Program Highlights:

Conservation Education

Eighteen educational programs were held across the state for communities. Topics were broad ranging, focusing primarily on community and private forest management, and included tree planting and pruning, community tree inventories, ordinance development, and more. Additional presentations, including 72 Arbor Day celebrations and educational programs, were made at schools and communities educating Idaho's citizens on the value and benefits of trees in our communities and providing information regarding better care and management of community forests. For the first time, a two-day "Benefits of the Urban Forest" project learning tree program was held for high school teachers, highlighting ways teachers and students could help cities inventory and quantify the benefits of the urban tree resource.

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance (SFA) helps protect lives, property, and natural resources through the cooperative efforts of local, state, and federal entities. This program funding helps hire, train, and equip firefighters available for national deployment and supports four interagency dispatch centers and an interagency fire cache. Keep Idaho Green assists fire prevention cooperatives with media activities, educational material, and publications on wildland fire prevention. The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program provides federal financial assistance to organize, train, and equip fire departments in rural areas and rural communities. In 2008, Idaho Department of Lands received 79 VFA grant applications with a total request of \$628,636; of these, 59 rural volunteer fire departments received VFA awards totaling \$175,000. Idaho continues to emphasize cooperative implementation of the National Fire Plan under the guidance of the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (www.idahofireplan.org). All 44 counties have completed their County Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and periodically submit updates that include revised WUI maps and lists of priorities and goals. County Interagency Working Groups maintain efforts to design and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects to mitigate the threat of wildfire to Idaho's communities and forests. To date, 17,787 acres of private land have been treated utilizing NFP dollars. In 2008, Idaho Department of Lands awarded \$1,334,675 of National Fire Plan funding to Hazardous Fuels Treatment projects across Idaho. Other projects and programs funded with National Fire Plan dollars include Idaho's National Fire Plan Coordinator position and the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group Website development and maintenance.

Economic Action

The Fuels for Schools (FFS) and Beyond program in Idaho is a partnership between the State Forester, the Regional Foresters in Regions 1 and 4 of the US Forest Service, and the Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D). The purpose is to expand the use of small-diameter trees and slash removed in hazardous fuel reduction projects to heat local public buildings and demonstrate the practicality, economic benefit, and positive environmental impact of heating and producing energy using woody biomass fuels. The partnership received \$25,000 in State & Private Forestry funding in 2008. The two school demonstration projects -in Council and Kellogg, Idaho- are functioning well and continue to provide significant financial savings to the local school districts. Another project in St. Maries is about to break ground, and several larger biomass heating and co-generation plants are in the planning stages. The Department is partnering with the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and biomass and economic development organizations to complete three Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol (CROP) studies covering most of the state, which will inform feasibility assessments for these facilities with respect to available biomass. We continue to provide outreach, assistance, and coordination with respect to these efforts. S&PF dollars were also used to help establish a wood utilization specialist position in Southwestern Idaho. This position is hosted by SAGE, a non-profit economic development group in Eagle, Idaho, outside of Boise. This specialist has spearheaded equipment demonstrations, facilitated contracts for woody biomass, worked with potential wood product businesses, worked with the statewide biomass working group promoting biomass utilization across the state and developed a business network website called www.idahosmallwoodpartners.com.

Forest Health Protection

Forest Health Protection is providing assistance to landowners whose lands have been ravaged by the mountain pine and Douglas-fir bark beetles in east-central Idaho. Approximately 774 acres were treated by contractors using salvage, spraying, pheromones, thinning, and planting on private lands affected by these beetles. Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) thinned 659 acres of lodgepole pine forest in south-eastern Idaho. Four detection/evaluation surveys were conducted statewide on approximately 5.5 million acres of

state and private lands. Sixty-one identification and control training sessions and 80 technical service visits were made to a total of 2,617 state and private land managers and the general public. Another 268 technical assistance phone calls/emails were handled by IDL's forest health staff.

Forest Legacy

In February 2009, Idaho will purchase its sixth Forest Legacy Conservation Easement on 400 acres near Sandpoint, securing development and subdivision rights, and special management prescriptions or exclusions. The FY 2008 grant is used for this purchase.

Forest Stewardship

The Id Forest Stewardship Program (FSP), through the Idaho Dept. of Lands (IDL), delivered vital education and information to Idaho forest landowners in 2008. IDL partnered with a local Soil & Water Conservation District and the US Forest Service to facilitate the Idaho State Forestry Contest, providing hands-on education and forestry knowledge-based competitions for hundreds of area high school students. IDL also partnered with Un. of Idaho Extension to sponsor 12 educational activities at 19 sites as part of Idaho's Strengthening Forest Stewardship Skills program. In addition, IDL collaborated with partners in neighboring states to host the WA-ID-OR Family Forest and Ranch Owners Field Day in Dayton, WA. The tri-state event served forest and range owners/managers representing over 70,000 ac of private forestland. IDL again partnered with several agencies and entities to host the Family Forest Landowner and Managers Conference, reaching over 200 private landowners and forest managers. IDL stewardship professionals provided 5 educational presentations to 241 Idaho loggers as part of the Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP) program. Idaho is further strengthening its association with NRCS in providing Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost-shared activities to forestland owners; in 2008, contracts for cost-shared activities were submitted through IDL to improve 1938 ac of private forestland. In October, a formal agreement was finalized between the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and IDL which recognizes Idaho's Forest Stewardship Plans as meeting or exceeding the performance measures described in the ATFS Tree Farm management plans, thus qualifying Forest Stewardship Plans as meeting American Forest Foundation's Standards for Sustainability.

Urban and Community Forestry

Sixty-eight communities containing 85% of Idaho's population are actively developing or sustainably managing their community forests. Federal and state funds generated more than \$390,000 in matching support both locally and from other agencies. This was supplemented by an additional \$60,000 in state funds. Partnerships with the Department of Transportation, Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Councils, the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association, and the three investor-owned utilities in Idaho have helped extend the program's reach throughout the state. Idaho currently has 70 Tree Cities USA; nine of these qualified for a Growth Award. The program continues to focus on utilizing trees as functional tools to positively address key community issues, maximizing their benefits and economic value. GIS Forest Analysis Competitive Grant Project-IDL is partnering with four communities, a county and others to utilize remote sensing and geospatial analysis tools to quantify the benefits of canopy to water quality and stormwater management in an area of rapid development over a sole-source aquifer. Utilizing high resolution satellite imagery, the GIS analysis project will capture the forest canopy in four classes, impervious surfaces in three classes, and a shrub/grass layer. This data will be used to complete a high resolution CITYgreen analysis of 100 square miles over the Rathdrum Prairie aquifer and to model benefits of canopy under different scenarios and develop canopy cover goals. The project will develop a guide promoting use of this valuable technology. To date, an RFP has been developed, proposals scored, and a contract awarded for the GIS work. The communities have helped develop the

necessary local datasets for use in the analysis, and an investor-owned utility has provided the current-year high-resolution digital aerial imagery that will be used for the project.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plant Management

This program is delivered through State Departments of Agriculture, Resource Conservation Districts, and Coordinated Weed Management Areas (CWMA's) for the detection suppression and control of non-native invasive plants. During the summer of 2008 priority acres were treated using herbicides as well as biological control. The State priority is early detection - rapid response of new invaders and slowing the spread of existing invaders. Funds are leveraged at an average of 3:1, substantially increasing the amount of funds available for project work. Idaho received \$630,000 in funding through State & Private Forestry and treated 24,522 acres in 2008.

So. Idaho Private Forest Landowners' Bark Beetle Prevention, Suppression and Restoration Project

The Idaho Department of Lands and the USDA Forest Service - Forest Health Protection Group established a partnership to offer cost share grants to landowners with forest lands heavily impacted by bark beetles. Since its inception in 2004, the program has expanded to include many more counties, and to address both pine beetle and Douglas-fir beetle outbreaks. To date, over \$1.5 million in grant funds have funded 84 projects that assist private landowners in implementing recommended prevention, suppression and restoration practices. Cost share treatments include: 1) Removing trees infested with bark beetles 2) Application of insecticides (Carbaryl) and pheromones (mch); to prevent beetle attacks; and 3) Thinning to reduce stand susceptibility to bark beetles. Homeowners have been very grateful for the assistance from the Idaho Department of Lands and the Forest Service. Without the technical and financial aid provided through the grants, projects to create healthier stands of trees on private land would not be possible. This program has been a successful tool that has educated private landowners on the value of proactive forest management. "Thanks again for all your help and for the IDL support of this program. It has enabled homeowners in our area to do a lot more to protect and improve the health of the forests on our land than we would have been able to do on our own." Paul Hill, Homeowner Representative, Stanley, ID

State Assessment of Forest Resources (SAFR)

ID Dept of Lands is working with a variety of state and federal agencies, advisory groups, organizations, tribes and conservation groups to develop an Idaho State Assessment of Forest Resources. Two groups are involved in its development - a larger stakeholder group that provides input and feedback as development progresses, and a core development team that is directly involved in each of step of the assessment process. Key issues or threats that affect forests and the benefits that forests create have been developed and a methodology decided upon. The core team timeline is to complete the assessment by spring of 2009.

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